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"*Inside Out.*" *Present Prison Systems and their Effects on Society and the Criminal*, by RICHARD VAUX. Philadelphia, 1888. pp. 31.

The writer expresses in a popular and vigorous way the following ideas: For certain crimes, as murder, arson, burglary and obstructions on railroads, in which life is lost or put in peril, the *penalty* should be death—not the *punishment*, for such crimes are beyond the limits of those violations of law for which punishment should be applied. Crime is largely the outgrowth of vicious social influences. State trade-schools with no locks, bars and bolts is a practical preventative to crime. There is a morbid humanitarianism—too much sympathy for the criminal, and too little for the friends of the victim. The state is tired of supporting individuals who ought to have been hung. The intermediate sentence, and qualified discharge before expiration of sentence, is not good; for the oversight after the discharge is not practical. However, in the case of first offenders with whom the prison authority is thoroughly acquainted, the prisoner might be released. The present system is administered by force. It should be turned inside out to discover what is bad, and to gain what is best.

*The Chronicles of Crime*, by CAMDEN PELHAM, Esq. London, 1886. 2 vols.

The author gives a series of memoirs and anecdotes of notorious criminals in Great Britain from earliest times to 1841. He thinks that the representation of guilt with its painful consequences is one of the best means of warning the young against the danger of temptation. To carry out this purpose, care has been taken to omit matter unfit for general reading. The earlier pages have been taken from sources peculiarly within the reach of the author. In comparing the offences with those of later date the dreadful crimes and brutal punishments are rare. The following are a few cases: execution for high treason; guilty of manslaughter, burnt in the hand; guilty of stealing a horse or cow, executed by having the beast pull out the peg that allows the ax to fall; 1921 women strangled and burned for counterfeiting; burnt alive for murder of husband; convicted of rape, not punished through influence of friends; executed for attempting to poison; executed for robbing the mails. Most of the cases are those of murder. The benefit of reading details of this nature seems doubtful in the case of the young. The less the young read about or witness cruelty, the better.

*Report of the Standing Committee on Crimes and Penalties*, to the National Conference of Charities and Corrections held at Louisville, Ky. 1883. pp. 15.

The report is especially valuable on account of the consensus of opinion. The general conclusion is: To make the laws such, that the criminal must either reform or be kept under restraint; to make prison structures roomy enough to allow of classification and efficient educational work; to permit conditional release; the reforming of the prisoner, and not the production of revenue should be the aim. Inefficiency of punishment is largely due to the spirit of retaliation in penal law, for this causes a counter retaliation on the part of the criminal. The professional criminal regards penalties as a business risk; the criminal by occasion forgets them at the moment of the act; the cranks are too absorbed in their wild ideas; the criminal by nature will commit crime in spite of them, because he likes to. Some existing defects are: Bad condition of station-houses and jails; Pennsylvania system of separate confinement is the only true plan; want of graduated prison system with conditional release; contract system bad; "Piece-price plan," where contractor furnishes machinery and material is a good substitute for public account plan, where the state furnishes the capital. There

should be a graduated compulsory educational system; in addition to the common branches, physical geography, political economy, ethics, natural and moral theology, and technical instruction should be given. Pardoning power should be rare; release should occur only when there is reasonable security against further crime. There are about 46,000 penitentiary prisoners in the United States, and from a quarter to half a million of ex-convicts abroad in the community, which is the cause of most of the current crimes.

*De la suggestion hypnotique chez les criminels*, par le DR. EM. LAURENT.  
Revue de l'Hypnotisme, 1er Août, 1889.

The writer takes up in detail a hysterical individual accused of complicity in theft, and shows how that hypnotization is negative in results as to gaining a confession from the accused. The following conversation took place while the accused was in the hypnotic state:

Laurent. You are accused of complicity in theft. Patient. I am innocent. L. You knew however that the horse and carriage had been stolen? P. No, no. I didn't know anything about it. L. You knew it. P. I swear to you, I did not. L. I tell you, you did know it. P. No (already more softly). L. I assure you that you knew it, you knew it. P. Yes, I knew it. L. Are you sure you knew it? P. I knew it. L. (again). You did not know that the carriage had been stolen? P. Yes, I knew it. (Thus it is evident, that the will of the patient has been conquered by the will of the hypnotizer.) Dr. Laurent continues: You did not know that the carriage had been stolen. P. Yes, I knew it. L. No, I tell you, you did not know anything about it. P. No, I did not know anything about it. At this moment we do not know whether the patient knows it, or not. Dr. Laurent says that the present state of our knowledge does not permit us to know whether the person hypnotized obeys his conscience or his will, which holds him under its dependence. We may add that little children on the witness stand can be made through the overbearing manner of the examiner to confess things about themselves or others that have been solely suggested at the time.

Dr. Laurent has an article in the same review for November 1st, 1889, considering the influence of suggestive action over hysterical prisoners. A hysterical person is often wholly at the mercy of his surroundings. At one time he loves to engage in prayer, at another to go on a debauch. It is evident that such a person coming out of prison will be more dangerous than ever. The doctor cites cases from his own experience, where the prisoners have made their hysterical comrade believe all sorts of absurdities about himself. He terms this a sort of suggestion (*à froid*), a hypnotism in the waking state; without doubt the suggestive action is less than in sleep, still it has its forces. He gives also an illustration of self-hypnotization in the case of a hysterical prisoner, who within a few days after his entrance into prison learns the customs, language and tastes of the place, and believes himself to be one of the greatest of criminals; he can be made to injure other prisoners. The practical conclusion of the article is, that all hysterical prisoners should be isolated, and placed under the charge of a physician, on account of the pernicious moral influence the prisoners have over them.

*Should Inebriates be Punished by Death for Crime?* By T. D. CROTHERS, M. D., Superintendent of Walnut Lodge, of Hartford, Conn.

Although this is only a leaflet of eight pages, it contains many facts and practical ideas. Criminals are found who are not deceitful, but desperately wicked. The inebriate is defective and diseased—the death penalty for inebriates is opposed to all teachings of science and experience. Ten per cent. of the estimated half million inebriates in the United